

Library changes promise temporary chaos

By KEVIN RASMUSEN
Of the Emerald

By the beginning of winter term, students can expect a fundamental restructuring of the general reference division of the main library, and perhaps a little chaos.

The change in library organization will strengthen the separate subject divisions and phase out the general reference desk. According to Rose Service, ed-psych librarian, the general reference desk will be replaced by a catalog information desk.

Humanities librarian, Robert McCollough, said the change-

over will entail a radical shift of materials and this alteration has led some to believe the result will be chaos and confusion within the library.

But the final result will be simplification and greater efficiency, not complication, according to McCollough. He said the new organization will involve "one less place to go. It will avoid the same question being answered twice." McCollough pointed out that business directories are presently located on the first floor while the business division is on the second floor of the library.

McCollough is a member of a task force appointed last year by

University librarian William Axford to help plan the library reorganization. Axford was faced with choosing between strengthening either the general reference section or the individual subject sections in the library. The task force recommended the library strengthen the subject division and Axford is currently putting that recommendation into action.

After changes are completed the catalog information desk will remain on the first floor. Staff will be on hand to answer questions regarding the card catalog and to act as a referral service directing students to the correct subject section. The staffing pattern of the

new desk has not been finally decided. Some people may work only half-time, and others will be reassigned.

In addition, the catalog information desk will maintain a basic reference collection including bibliographical tools and catalogs of foreign libraries. Other books presently located in the general reference section will be distributed to the appropriate sections. Service said library staff are currently in the process of reviewing those books to determine which section they will be sent to.

The target date for completion of the project is Jan. 1, but McCollough said he doubts it will actually be finished by then.

"The library is terribly short of shelving," he explained. "We lack expansion space." In addition to the restructuring of the general reference desk, the Archives or Special Collections Division, is moving to Fenton Hall, and that will create some additional space.

The humanities division will probably be the first to be affected by the change because it will receive most of the periodicals from the first floor, McCollough said. But the change will ultimately affect even the separate branches of the main library.

Service explained that the periodical holdings files of the different sections will be standardized in order to simplify the interdisciplinary work of students.

The library has been operating in its present mode, with a general reference desk plus subject divisions, since 1950. McCollough said the new pattern the library is adopting is not an unusual one and many libraries operate in this way.

He admitted it may be a little chaotic while the actual moving is underway but, he added, "when the dust settles, reference service to library patrons will be considerably enhanced. It is a concentration of resources along, we think, logical lines."

Linguistics sees expansion

By becoming relevant, the University's linguistics department is also on its way to becoming big.

Only three years ago, courses in the department were approved to satisfy group requirements. Since that time, linguistics has grown nearly three-fold.

The department's chair, Dale Sloat, believes students are finding out that a foundation in linguistics is more practical than esoteric.

Students are finding applications for the knowledge of languages in areas as diverse as medicine and law, foreign languages and political science.

To demonstrate the broad-

based interest in his department's courses, Sloat points out that there are at least as many transfer students from other departments as there beginning linguistics majors.

"I think the interest was around, but it just hadn't been served till now," Sloat said.

Another reason for the boom in linguistics enrollment might be the fact that people now have an outlet for their interest.

Just this year, the department was expanded to 15 course offerings. One class, the introductory linguistics course, will attract 350 to 400 students.

Only three years ago, the department only had 10 undergraduates and 10 graduate students enrolled as majors. Now, there are 38 undergraduate majors and 28 masters degree students enrolled in the program.

Four people are enrolled as doctoral candidates.

One of them, Sharon Taylor,

said the program provides "a really good positive attitude." She says students are encouraged to "do professional things" such as write journal articles and present papers to academic symposia.

"Since I've been here I've written two papers with faculty members. Sloat has also had a linguistics section added at the Oregon Academy of Sciences which enables students to present papers," she said.

Taylor, a graduate teaching fellow, adds that the structure of language reveals a lot about how human beings think and the cultures from which they come. For this reason, students studying in other disciplines often enroll in linguistics courses to round out their backgrounds.

Students graduating from the program have found work in foreign service, working with the government in cryptography (codes), teaching at the college level and teaching English abroad.

Read's future to be decided

Head football coach Don Read is scheduled to meet with University Pres. William Boyd and University athletic director John Caine today to discuss whether Read will keep his job for another season.

Boyd and Caine met Monday to discuss Read's future, but no decisions were announced pending today's session. Read was not present at the Monday meeting.

Read has one year remaining on his contract. In his three seasons at Oregon his teams have compiled a record of 9-24.

Cain said any decision reached at today's meeting would probably be announced Friday.

(Please turn to page 4 for an editorial comment on Read's future as the University's head football coach.)



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